

Amateur Radio K4JNB

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RE: RM-11699 Comment

Current Commission rules *EXPRESSLY* prohibit use of encryption on the amateur bands. I believe that before any change to this prohibition is brought about, there needs to be a much more in-depth discussion of the reasons why encryption would be necessary and how it would be controlled and/or employed.

At this time there has not been enough exploration of the options nor of the possible harm to the Amateur Radio Service (both domestically and globally) to make such a change to said service.

As amateur radio operators, we like to tout that we are there when all else fails, but there are methods to secure information that needs to be secured. And I firmly believe that whenever life or property is *TRULY* at risk, no information that would mitigate that risk needs to be encrypted. As in *Good Samaritan Laws* and other government regulated services (such as Aviation) – temporary emergency authority allows for deviation from the rules to preserve life or property *UNDER IMMINENT THREAT*.

There may be an actual need to consider use of encryption on the Amateur bands, but the issue cannot be adequately examined in a 30 day comment period. Therefore, I urge the commission to reject this request *at this time* and allow amateur radio working groups to more thoroughly weigh all of the benefits and risks of a change of this magnitude.

Respectfully submitted this 26th day of June 2013.